OLED materials players unite

Novaled and Ciba Specialty Chemicals are to form an industrial collaboration in the field of OLED materials. Ciba Specialty Chemicals will produce the unique organic dopant and transport materials developed by Novaled.

The unique organic dopant and transport materials for its proprietary OLED technology, Novaled PIN OLED, allow OLED devices to perform with the highest power efficiency. While Ciba Specialty Chemicals will produce these materials using its specific know how in the synthesis of organic materials in reliable highest purity, Novaled will continue to market the materials. The two companies will also collaborate in the development of future OLED products and platforms based on the Novaled's technology and materials.

For more details, visit: www.cibasc.com/electronic-materials

EVG photoresist breakthrough

EV Group (EVG) has announced a breakthrough achievement in new photoresist coating technology. With its new Nano Spray technology EVG has been able to demonstrate, for the first time, conformal coatings of vertical via walls 300-micron deep and 100-micron in diameter. This new milestone in photoresist application, it says, will enable users to carryout further lithography steps in the bottom of the via to create through wafer interconnects and allow a new bandwidth of applications throughout many technologies in semiconductor processing markets.

For more details, visit: www.evgroup.com

New vacuum gauge controllers from MKS

MKS Instruments, Inc. reckons it can set new standards for vacuum gauge controllers with the introduction of the PDR900 Controller. A stand alone, single channel power supply and readout unit, it is for use with all HPS Series 900 digital vacuum transducers. The PDR900 features three high power set-point relays for process control and a leak-detection feature with an audible alarm.

The PDR900 can be used with both RS232 and RS485 transducers. It automatically detects the transducer type. It communicates digitally with the transducer, enabling remote control of transducer setup. The digital transmission of measurement data also eliminates analog measurement noise coupling via the transducer cables.

The controller can be used as a tool for configuration, calibration and diagnostics of system-integrated transducers in OEM applications. RoHS and CE compliant, it offers user-selectable readout in mbar, Torr or Pascals, and a built-in data logger for process monitoring and analysis. The PDR900 also features an easy to use, menu-driven user interface for simplified setup and configuration of transducer parameters. The controller's analog output and digital communication enhance the system's flexibility and ease of operation.

MKS Instruments also announced receipt of Controlled Environments magazine's 2006 Experts' Choice Award for its LIQUOZON Ozonated Water Delivery Systems. LIQUOZON systems, which won in the Water/Chemical/Gases category, provide an environmentally friendly alternative to many toxic and corrosive process chemicals used in wet wafer cleaning and oxide growth applications.

Finally, it introduced the Ion Systems Model 5200-SR Digital Ionization Sensor for use in semiconductor equipment front-end modules or in process modules. The 5200-SR Digital Sensor, combined with AeroBar ionizers and integrated IonMonitor™ software, provides the industry's only true closed-loop controlled ionization system.

For more details, visit: www.mksinst.com

GaNzilla II MOCVD popular in Taiwan

Veeco Instruments Inc. has received several multi-unit orders for its GaNzilla II MOCVD system from several key Taiwanese manufacturers of high-brightness HB-LEDs. Customers which have placed multi-unit orders during the first quarter of 2006 include Huga Optotech Inc., Highlink Technology Corp. and Epitech Technology Corp.

Piero Sferlazzo, VP, GM of Veeco's MOCVD operations commented, "The GaNzilla II's leading productivity, high yields and material quality for GaN-based LEDs has resulted in Veeco's continued success. We believe that Veeco gained market share during the fourth quarter and continues to do so in the beginning of 2006. In addition to these multi-unit orders for new GaNzilla IIs, Veeco also has sold several GaNzilla I reactor upgrade kits which allow our customers to increase the performance of their installed base to results on par with our latest GaNzilla II systems."

Veeco Instruments also announced a strategic investment in the development of a new Physical Vapor Deposition technology with Fluens Corp., of Billerica, MA, USA. Veeco and Fluens plan to jointly develop a next-generation process for high-rate deposition of aluminum oxide for data storage applications.

For more details, visit: www.veeco.com